

afford him great pleasure.

I remain, dear Professor

Yours very truly

Eggers

H. Thomas, 20 June 1850

My dear Dr. Gray!

It was very encouraging for me to receive your kind letter and see, that you think we may find sufficient subscribers for botanical specimens from the West Indies, so as to be able to support collectors in these islands. I also hope that in Europe we may get a good deal assistance in this way, I had originally intended, as I wrote to you, to let the scientific explorations of these islands embrace also other branches of natural history, but as this may be perhaps become too extensive, it may be advisable to confine ourselves to botany alone.

Through Dr. Warming in Copenhagen I have had issued some prospectus to that effect, and I am quite confident that with perseverance and a good collector some good work may be done.

If Mr. Curtis should be found willing to enter on this field of enterprise, it will certainly be an advantage to get such a man. Poor Dr. Garber I am afraid has met with

Some accident or even an untimely end  
in Portorico, otherwise it is quite inexplicable  
that he should not have answered my letters,  
to him. I shall try once more to write to  
the U. S. Consul, to whom his letters were  
directed, in order perhaps to obtain some  
positive news about him.

I was much interested in perusing the  
letter of Mr. Martindale, which I hereby beg  
to return.

It is no doubt right as you suggest to limit  
the price of the plants to \$10 a hundred, at  
that price I think a collector or two may be  
employed without any extra expense if a  
proper number of subscribers can be found.

You will perhaps be good enough to let me  
know if Mr. Curtiss should be found willing  
to enter upon the U. S. exploration and what  
conditions he proposes. In case we employ  
other collectors it would be well to arrange  
matters between them so as to decide which  
field each should undertake as his share, as  
also for the proper division of the plants  
collected. I hardly think it would do to let  
him or the other collectors collect like Dr. Garber  
on his own account and distribute the  
plants themselves, as in that way there will

be no uniformity in the plan and even  
the same plants may be sent out by the  
various collectors' choice.

My intention is to engage the collectors at  
a certain remuneration or even so that they  
should divide all the proceeds according to the  
number of plants they collect, but that the  
plants should be sent to me for arrangement,  
determination and distribution, in which  
way a uniform result might be obtained.

This would not preclude, that particular fami-  
lies might be determined by specialists so as  
to ensure a more reliable and quick determi-  
nation, than if all was left to one alone.

What I would like to prevent is chiefly an  
isolated collecting of plants without proper  
determination and which would hardly be  
of more value than a desultory collection  
without plan or system.

I shortly expect to hear from Dr. Warming  
if he sends out a young botanist from  
Europe, in which case the whole matter  
could be satisfactorily arranged and a definite  
plan adopted. Meanwhile it would be  
well if we could ascertain how many  
subscribers could be obtained in the U. S.  
at the rate you propose, and also if Mr. Curtiss  
feels inclined to come out and try his luck in  
the West Indies, which I have no doubt will